(iii) Mechanization and modernization of existing mines by introduction of intermediate technology for coal loading at face and mass production technology like continuous miners in underground mines where ever technically feasible.

(iv) All new mines are being mined with appropriate mechanization.

(v) Deployment of higher capacity HEMM in mines.

(vi) Introduction of more Surface Mines in open cast mines.

(vii) New areas are being identified with high production longwall mining faces.

(viii) Outsourcing of certain activities/operations in selected mines/ areas.

Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization

1785. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization is paying less rate of interest than the Employees Provident Fund Organization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for different rate of interest payment by the two organizations; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government of ensure uniformity in the rate of interest payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the financial years 2002-03 and 2003-04, the rates of interest of Coal Mines Provident Fund (CMPF) were 9% and 8% respectively, whereas the rate of interest of Employees Provident Fund during these two years was 9.5%. The rate of interest of CMPF for the financial year 2004-05 onwards is yet to be decided by the Government.

(c) and (d) The Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) having its own Board of Trustees is responsible for operating the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, whereas the Employees Provident Fund

is managed by Employees Provident Fund Organization having its own Board of Trustees. These two organizations are different having different corpus, investments, yields on investments and Board of Trustees. The rate of interest payable by Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization is based on yields on its investments and the recommendation of its Board of Trustees. Therefore, it may not always be possible for CMPFO to maintain uniform interest rate with other provident fund schemes including that of Employees Provident Fund Organization.

Arrears to Coal Workers

1786. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a deep resentment is prevailing among the coal workers all over the country for non payment of arrears of the Seventh Bipartite Agreement signed last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in payment of arrears;

(c) whether the unions in coal industry have informed the Coal India Ltd. that they would go on strike if the payment is not made earlier; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure early payment of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The National Coal Wage Agreement-VII (NCWA-VII) was signed on 15-07-2005. As per NCWA-VII, the modalities for payment of arrears to the employees of all Subsidiary companies are to be jointly worked out taking into consideration of the revival package of Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited. For this purpose, meetings between the management and the trade union representatives were held on 6.9.2005,16.11.2005,18.1.2006 and 20.2.2006.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) No strike notice has been received from central trade unions in Coal India Limited for strike at Coal Industry level.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.